



November 15, 2007

The Honorable Susan Golding
Chair, Blue Ribbon task Force
Marine Life Protection Act Team
Resources Agency
1416 9th Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

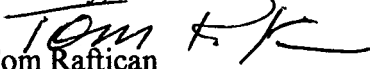
Re: Vertical Zoning of Marine Protected Areas: Ecological Consideration For Balancing
Pelagic Fishing With Conservation

Dear Chair Golding:

I was made aware of a reference the Science Advisory Team made to the "Vertical Zoning of Marine Protected Areas" workshop in which recreational anglers, myself and Bob Fletcher of SAC included, allegedly supported a low conservation value of salmon trolling in coastal waters. Taken alone, this assertion is misleading at best. It is and always has been my strong belief that surface fishing techniques have absolutely minimal impacts on benthic species or habitat. Interestingly enough, bycatch data on these type fisheries clearly backs this up. My testimony throughout the workshop was consistent with this and in fact, was key to not only my participation, but was also a major factor in Dr. Wahle's creation of the workshop. At no time did I say anything contrary to this.

Recreational anglers are strong proponents of conservation. We value being on the water and will not be successful in our endeavors if there aren't abundant resources. My comments to Dr. Whale following the workshop pointed out in particular that many of the marine ecologists who were invited to the workshop had little background on the differences between fishing methods and were consequently unfamiliar with differences in fishing outcomes. Please don't rely on their anecdotal insight alone.

Sincerely,


Tom Raftican

President, United Anglers of Southern California